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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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) Examiner: Zirker, Daniel R.
) Art Unit: 1771
Serial No.: 09/940,773)
)
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GROUP 1700

APR 30 2003

Title: PEELING MEMBER

RECEIVED

New York, NY 10036
April 22, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action that was mailed January 22, 2003. Kindly amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-7 and 9 and amend Claims 8, 11, 12 and 16 as follows:

8. (Amended) A peeling member arranged in contact with or adjacent to a roller attached to an electrophotographic apparatus, comprising: a support member, and a peeling sheet adhered to said support member with YAG laser spot welding.

11. (Amended) The peeling member as claimed in claim 8, wherein the peeling sheet comprises a metal plate, having

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a fluororesin film adhered with a silicone based adhesive to a portion of said metal plate where the metal plate at least contacts or is adjacent to said roller.

X3

12. (Amended) The peeling member as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fluororesin film is at least one resin film selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene polymer, tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkylvinylether copolymer, tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer, and tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer.

X3

16. (Amended) The peeling member as claimed in claim 11, wherein the silicone based adhesive comprises dimethylpolysiloxane crude rubber.

Kindly add the following claims:

AC

19. (New) The peeling member as claimed in claim 17, wherein the polytetrafluoroethylene film has a thickness of 10 μm to 200 μm and is surface treated.

AC

20. (New) The peeling member as claimed in claim 18, wherein the surface of the polytetrafluoroethylene film is etched by immersing in an ammonia solution of metal sodium.

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as not clearly illustrating a critical element of the invention. Attached to this Amendment is a proposed revised drawing which includes the requested illustration. It is requested that the Examiner approve the requested drawing correction.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as